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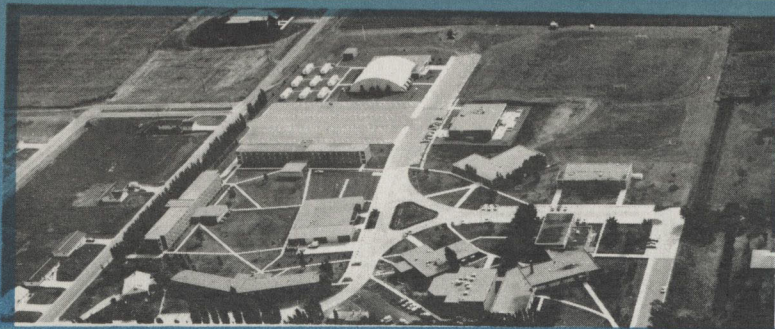
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DORDT COLLEGE

VOICE

Volume XXI

Sioux Center, Iowa January 1975

Number 3

NEW YEAR'S REFLECTIONS

IF WE FAINT NOT

You might be inclined to ask, Is this the way to begin a new year, by suggesting that we are possibly about to faint? Should not the opening of another year be greeted with a ring of optimism? Away with all the gloomy, dark thoughts. Let's talk brightly and happily about the glorious things to be accomplished. Even if conditions are not all that promising, don't remind us of that. Challenge us with something positive.

I agree. In fact, that is why I chose to write on this text. These words of the apostle Paul are packed with punch. They form the climax of a classic spiritual rally speech. Listen to Paul speak:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap. if we faint not

There is drive, tenacity, endurance, persistency, fight in this phrase. Paul is really saying it's all out there ready for you, all these marvelous things, if only you've got what it takes to hang in there.

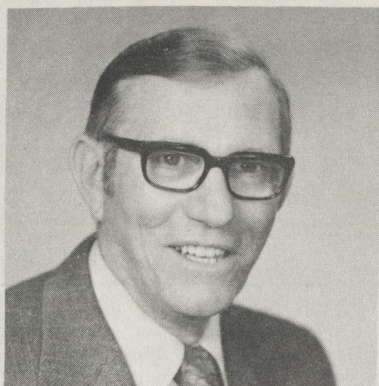
It's good old-fashioned biblical stick-to-itiveness that Paul is talking about. Of course, he is concerned here with an extremely high pay-off -- everlasting life! Good things do not come easy. And the very, very best comes only through all out effort and persistent, agonizing endurance. You do not easily become a quitter; you do not allow obstacles to prevent you from staying on course. Not at all. There's just too much at stake. You know what is demanded, you take full measure of the difficulties and trials, and then you stubbornly, though lovingly, press on.

This is the kind of prodding we need. Remember, it is really God who is speaking, arousing, challenging. Our calling is to be sowing, yes sowing everywhere to the Spirit. That means living according to God's Word, seeking to honor Christ's will in all areas of life. It implies struggle, battle. For when we have the lofty goals of Christ's Spirit as our goals, if we are people with vision born of His Spirit, we will encounter hostility on all sides and in various ways. In our times it seems as though all the forces of anti-Christ are consolidating against us. The temptation to retreat, to withdraw, to lay down arms is so great.

But that God's true saints may not, must not, and will not do. We know that we will reap. We will reap in due season, in God's own time. That should be enough encouragement. Yes, it is all out there ready for us. Those glorious fruits of sowing to the Spirit. May our prayer and our pledge be this: No, Lord, we are not about to faint, we are ready to fight. Thy grace is sufficient for us.

B.J. Haan

A Blessed and Happy New Year



From the President's Pen...

by Rev. B.J. Haan

Are the Scriptures Maintaining Their Status Among Us?

Reformed, Calvinistic circles have always been characterized by their strong position on the Holy Scriptures. *Soli Scriptura* means something to a Calvinist. Whatever else may be up for speculation, you don't play around with the Bible. That is God's Word to us, His special revelation. We are to live by that infallible guide. We are to test every thought and deed in its light.

That has been the position taken and the language spoken in our homes, our Christian schools, and our churches. Any one who tampered with the Scriptures was judged to be a threat to the faith.

Obviously, therefore, any discussion among us concerning the Bible which has a slightly unfamiliar ring to our ears sets off all the radar signals. Immediately we are primed for battle. And let's face it, recently there have been discussions on Scripture which for many do have a very unfamiliar ring. The result has been a great deal of heated controversy over the Word of God.

Most of us are fully aware of the great debate which Report 44 touched off on the subject of the authority of Scripture. In spite of some fierce attacks upon this report, the Synod adopted it at one session and later reaffirmed its stand when confronted with additional serious charges against the report. This has, however, by no means satisfied the complainants.

Nor have the doubts concerning certain writings and utterances of a few AACs proponents on the Word of God been put to rest. These men too have spoken in unfamiliar terms, which have deeply disturbed many among us and have involved God's people in an extremely complicated round of argumentation.

That's not all. To make matters even more confusing one only has to listen to recent biblical scholars among us who advocate principles of Scriptural interpretation which also appear to have an unfamiliar ring. Not a few are of the firm opinion that it is in this area, the area of hermeneutics - biblical interpretation, where the real debate is going to finally

settle. A large percentage of the issues presently demanding the attention of the church are directly tied up with hermeneutics. A good example of this is the question concerning women in church offices. Just how are we to interpret Scripture on this matter?

Because of these developments there has been a great deal of tension. The nature of the discussion has frequently been such as to cast a bad reflection upon certain individuals, institutions, and movements. Occasionally hasty and devastating accusations have been made which have aroused the anger of many concerned members of the church. If the accusations can be substantiated obviously there is reason for alarm. As stated before in this article, our people are not about to allow the Holy Scriptures to be denied their high status among us. God forbid! But have the accusations been substantiated? Do recent developments harbor views which if not exposed and expelled will rob the church of the veritable Word of God?

The majority of those whose positions have been seriously questioned insist that they do hold a high view of the Scriptures. Furthermore, they are eager to talk and to discuss the matter. They want to live fully in agreement with that written Word of God. They claim it to be the final court of appeal. A few are convinced that what they are presently advocating does even greater justice to the Scriptures, and is basically in harmony with the best in our Reformed tradition. Others are not at all certain of this. They are ready to exercise patience but with an uneasy feeling.

What are we to do in this situation? We may not ignore the problem. It is our judgment that the proper way to proceed is to bring representative leaders together to discuss the issues. In fact it would be far better for all concerned if leaders of varying stances and mentalities would engage in serious, respectful, and loving debate before rushing into print with their untested and untried insights. When will we learn the proper method as Christians to weigh new developments, profit from new insights, and identify ideas hostile to our faith before they are disseminated?

We at Dordt will continue to work in the direction of conferences. For example,

this coming April, Dordt is sponsoring a two-day meeting on the subject of hermeneutics. Tentatively three leading spokesmen on this issue in our circles have agreed to speak. All ministers and interested laymen will be invited to the conference. It is our earnest prayer that this meeting will serve God's people well. The high status of the Scriptures among us must be maintained regardless of the cost.

New "Theatre" to be Ready by Next Year

A community performing arts center, being built as part of the new \$2 million Sioux Center Community School, is nearing completion. It is anticipated that Dordt's Drama Department and Music Department will be able to start using this facility next fall for various plays and musical performances.

Dordt has obtained access to this exceptional facility under the provisions of a joint-use contract worked out with the Community School district and the City of Sioux Center.

Under the terms of the joint-use agreement, use of this community arts center, (including the scheduling of plays, musical performances, conferences, and mass meetings) is under the jurisdiction of a Community Recreation and Arts Council on which Dordt is equitably represented with the Community School and City. Under similar joint-use agreements, Dordt presently uses the City Indoor Swimming Pool and Municipal Track Field for all its recreational and athletic needs in those areas at a tremendous cost saving to the school.

As originally designed for only high school use, the basic stage layout and equipment was adequate for only a very modest high school program. A budget of \$100,000 was developed for bringing the facility up to minimum college and professional standards, of which the City agreed to pay 60% but Dordt had to contribute 40%, since all of these alterations and improvements were made primarily for Dordt's benefit.

Changes being made for the extra \$100,000 investment include: (1) a modified thrust stage under which (2) an orchestra pit has been built, (3) an increased quantity and more sophisticated stage light panels (including 36 dimmers, 150 ellipsoidal and Fresnel lighting instruments with over 100 circuits), and (4) the provision of a professional sound system.

The need for a new or better facility for putting on plays at Dordt has been under discussion and consideration for five years. The old auditorium, C106 was built for a student body of 200-300 students. The stage facilities for putting on plays were

very inadequate, much poorer than most high schools have available, to say nothing of other colleges.

The administration and board have long recognized this problem but were having trouble finding a solution. Several alternatives were explored. A new facility would have cost \$500,000, more than we could justify or afford; to extensively remodel the old auditorium bringing it up to college and professional standards was also extremely expensive and the building didn't readily lend itself to such remodeling.

For the above reasons, the Administration and Board of Trustees were unanimously and strongly in favor of the joint-use proposal presented by the City of Sioux Center for the new community theatre. For an investment of \$40,000, Dordt has access to a stage and auditorium only a few blocks from campus, solving the problem for a better and larger facility for the drama department, to say nothing about how much more suited this new auditorium will be for many college musical and opera productions.

The design of the building is such that access to the auditorium is possible without trespass into other parts of the school building. A lobby will separate the regular school building from the theatre (stage and auditorium) area, allowing the regular school facilities to be locked up during non-school hours.

Apparently, a few people have unwittingly associated the word "theatre" with "movie house" and assumed that Dordt was participating in the building of a movie theatre. Although Dordt didn't name the facility, and perhaps calling it a "Performance Arts Center" would have prevented confusion, the designation "Theatre" is a proper one. Webster defines theatre as (1) a building for dramatic performances, or (2) a building for showing motion pictures. Historically, from the time of Ancient Greece and Rome, theatre was always used to designate a place for dramatic performances. It has only been in the last 50 or 60 years that movie house operators appropriated the word theatre for their own use.

This particular theatre will be used for dramatic and musical performances.

Basketball Team has 5-1 Record

The Dordt College Defenders basketball team, a veteran unit that reached the N.A.I.A. district playoffs last year with an outstanding 13-8 record, have won five of their first six games of the 1974-75 season with impressive victories over five strong area colleges.

The veteran starting unit, having played together now for three years, include Jerry Schnyders, a 6-2 senior from

Edgerton Minnesota; Mark Sybesma, a 6-2 senior from Sioux Center, Iowa; Craig Shannon, a 6-4 senior from Denver, Colorado; Bob Grussing, a 6-2 senior from Clara City, Minnesota, and Dan Steenstra, a 5-9 junior from Wayne, New Jersey.

Other players seeing considerable action in the first five games include Bob Vander Pol, a 6-1 sophomore from Pella Iowa, Terry Crull, a 6-7 freshman from Ridott, Illinois, Jeff Crull, a 6-3 senior from Ridott, Illinois, and Dave Ruter, a 6-2 junior from Kanawha, Iowa.

The leading scorer for the first five games is Craig Shannon with a 20.8 point scoring average.

Expands Theology Curriculum

In the early years at Dordt College students were required to take ten hours of Bible courses. These were "chopped up" into five two hour segments. This arrangement was most inconvenient for class scheduling and for efficient student study habits. When two hour courses were eliminated from the curriculum three courses of three hours each were introduced: Perspectives in Biblical Theology, History of Christian Confessions, and Christianity in Historical Perspective. These furnished a counterpart or somewhat general equivalent to the erstwhile and traditional Introduction to the Old and New Testament, Reformed Doctrine, and Calvinism.

In more recent years while other departments expanded to offer majors or its ten course equivalent, the Theology Department did not expand. This was in large part a practical matter. A theology major had no official approval for teacher certification. The state is not interested in our so-called "sectarian" interests. While it would be highly desirable for one who might be called upon to teach Bible at the high school level to have a Theology major, it would require a double major to bring that about.

The other aspect of the practical concern lay in the fact that expansion requires additional staff and also students who are able to fit the additional courses into their schedule. In the past few years Dordt's enrollment has reached levels which make a long-standing curricular ideal now practically feasible.

A few years ago a Theology Study Committee was formed. It's study reached the conclusion that the time is now propitious for Dordt to move the number of theology offerings up to the equivalent of a major, that is ten courses or more. A subcommittee of the larger committee formulated the following as the basis for the enlarged program.

1. The genius of Dordt College is to be Scripturally oriented in its curriculum and teaching. Although the mere presence of a theology department does not make a college Christian, A Christian college is not complete without a meaningful theology curriculum. A properly structured curriculum in theology will contribute significantly to a deepening and broadening of students' understanding of reality and of man's task in this world.

2. Students in all academic fields will be called upon to do their work out of their Christian commitment. Therefore, it would be advantageous for each student to have the opportunity to take supportive course work which would provide the Biblical and theological background needed to carry out this commitment. A theology curriculum should contain courses designed to meet the variety and level of needs of such people. This, in fact, should be the major goal of a theology curriculum.

3. With proper structuring of curriculum offerings, a major in theology can be offered. Theology as a discipline can be covered at the undergraduate level -- at the general, non-professional, not explicit career level -- just as we do in such fields as philosophy, history, English, etc.

4. Because more and more of our students come from different denominational backgrounds, it is imperative that we begin to deal explicitly with a number of issues that arise in this context. The implications of our confessional stance and the errors in most important non-reformed beliefs and lifestyles should be studied.

5. A theology curriculum should be structured in such a way that there is systematic coverage of subject matter. In the discussions the following broad structure was often used. It is only a general guide and not an inflexible division. Many courses fit one or more categories.

In addition to such special courses as one in Missions, courses which concentrate on the study of the biblical text itself are of the essence of the new offerings. With the new offerings we feel confident that the department will serve a wide range of student interest and need, and that students will use some of the theology courses to fill in their electives. Some of those who will be teaching in high school may be able to concentrate their electives to attain virtually a double major and those teaching in the grades can add to their Bible preparation by way of making themselves more effective in their Bible teaching responsibilities. And surely, the additional theology offerings should be welcomed by all who would use God's infallible Word as their rule of faith and practice.

Nick Van Til, Chairman
Theology-Philosophy Dept

A Letter to Mom & Dad

(The following letter was written by a Dordt Freshman to her parents who sent us a copy of the letter with an attached note: "We thought you might appreciate reading this, and that it would be an encouragement to you to know your efforts are not in vain.")

Tonight I had a really great time. There was a bonfire and most of the kids here went and we had a hymn sing. There's nothing that quite equals a hymnsing under the stars around a fire for fun. We closed by singing the Alma Mater while we all held hands.

It really is true about the unique Christian feeling here at Dordt. It's one thing to hear the faculty and administration say that this is a really Christian place, but it's another thing to really see this in action. It's not that you don't believe the faculty, etc., when they say it, but administration sometimes tends to think kind of ideally instead of realistically. But I've found even in just the couple of days that I've been here that this is a Christian place. In all my years of Christian education, nothing begins to compare with this. I was talking with another freshman who was auditioning for band the other day and he said he didn't think he would make it, but he was taking one step at a time in faith, trusting the Lord to work all things for his good. This isn't an isolated incident. Most people here, from the faculty and administration down to the students and even the cleaning ladies have this strong, vibrant faith. Of course they're struggling and still have problems but it's really great, because at least they are striving! There's a oneness here at Dordt that impresses even a freshman like me. Through the friendship and caring that people show for each other, you can really see the love of Christ shine through. As you can probably tell, I really love it here! I'm so grateful to God for placing me here because I'm really sure that this is His plan for me and I'm especially grateful for all that you've done! Tonight we sang a song that the upperclassmen call the freshman "homesick song." I'll just close by sharing it with you.

When we are called to part,
It gives us inward pain
But we shall still be joined in heart
And hope to meet again.

Love to all,

ETCETERA

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees has approved a proposal by the Faculty to introduce a theology major at Dordt. Eleven new courses in theology have been added, bringing the total number offered to 16. The new program will be implemented next year.

The Dordt College Opera Guild will be performing the hilarious "Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan and the exciting "West Side Story" by Leonard Bernstein on February 14, 15, 17, and 18. Dordt's opera guild performances have received excellent reviews in the past and this year's evening at the opera promises to be another highly entertaining experience.

Dordt College won its first soccer league title in November by defeating a tough Augustana College of Sioux Falls team 3-1 in the championship game. Victories for the year include a surprise thrashing of the Iowa State Cyclones, 4-1. The team's overall record this season was 12 wins and 1 loss, the only loss coming against a tough semi pro team from Omaha.

Through the generosity of a friend of the college, Dordt will be making an English Writing Award of \$150 for the 1974-75 school year. Called the "English Writing Award - Dordt 20" in commemoration of Dordt's 20th anniversary, the award will be based on poems, essays, stories, and papers submitted by Dordt students.

Some time this spring, Dordt will be publishing a special 20th Anniversary booklet that will pictorially highlight the first 20 years of Dordt College. Plans call for us to make this booklet available to every family in our constituency so be looking for it via the mail in early March.

The Dordt College Chorale, Messiah Chorus, and the choir of Unity Christian High School combined recently to present an inspiring, moving performance of Handel's *The Messiah* before a full house crowd of over 2000 people. Dordt College student soloists included Ramona Franken, Sioux Center, Iowa, Rachel De Groot, Edgerton, Minnesota, John Van Gronengen of Jackson, Mississippi, and Clayton Danzeisen from Carson, North Dakota.

Dordt Choirs on Spring Tour

The music department at Dordt College has completed a tentative schedule for the Spring choir tours. According to Prof. Dale Grotenhuis, the Concert Choir will be on tour from March 19 to March 31. Their itinerary will take them to a number of places in the East. Their schedule follows:

Wed. March 19 - Sully, Iowa
Thur. March 20 - South Holland, Ill.
Fri. March 21 - Grand Haven, Mich.
Sat. March 22 - Fremont, Mich.
Sun. March 23 - afternoon - Grand Rapids, Mich.
evening - Jenison
Mon. March 24 - London, Ontario
Canada
Tues. March 25 - Hamilton, Ontario
Canada
Wed. March 26 - Prospect Park, New Jersey
Thur. March 27 - Midland Park, New Jersey
Fri. March 28 - Philadelphia, Penn.
Sat. March 29 - travel day
Sun. March 30 - afternoon - Kalamazoo, Mich.
evening - Holland, Mich.

The tentative itinerary for the Dordt Chorale will take them to the Northern Country, their schedule follows:

Thurs. April 10 - Hull, N.D.
Fri. April 11 - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Sat. April 12 - Minneapolis, Minn.
Sun. April 13 -
Morning - St. Paul, Minn.
Afternoon - Baldwin, Wis.
Evening - Hollandale, Minn.

etc. cont.

The Dordt College Library has 80 books and 18 pamphlets of Abraham Kuyper, approximately two thirds of all his works. In addition, the library has a copy of every issue of "De Heraut", a newspaper of which Kuyper was editor-in-chief from its beginning in 1877 until a few weeks before his death in 1920. Most of the books and pamphlets were given to Dordt by Dutch immigrants or their descendants. Miss Hester Hollaar, the head librarian, noted that they are hoping to enlarge the collection even further.

Dr. Gary Parker, Associate Professor of Biology at Dordt, was the author of an article that appeared in the November issue of the *Journal of College Science Teaching*. His article, "Programmed Instruction, Test Performance, and Classroom Discussion", summarized the doctoral dissertation research Dr. Parker did at Dordt College.